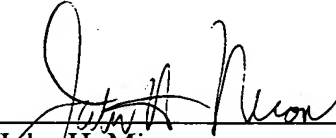


REMARKS

The above amendments have been made to eliminate all multiple dependent claims (both proper and improper), thereby both eliminating the need for a multiple dependent claim and ensuring examination of all claims on the merits in the first Office Action.

Respectfully submitted,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John H. Mion  
Registration No. 18,879

SUGHRUE MION, PLLC  
2100 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20037-3213  
(202) 663-7901

WASHINGTON OFFICE

**23373**

CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: August 24, 2004